

MONDAY 10.23.23 - Luke 8:15

Persevere... continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success. Do we persevere? Do YOU persevere? I would like to think we have good and noble hearts. We hear the Word and retain it. We listen, learn, worship, spectate. But do we persevere? Do we act? Do we move? Do we mentor? Do we equip? Do we engage? Do we empower? I worry that we often grow weary of going out into the world and acting like the hands and feet of God. So, instead, we stop. Stop, by definition, is the opposite of continue. The opposite of persevere. We stop doing some of the things we did in the past. We stop doing some of the things that make us followers of Christ. We have good and noble hearts, and we hear the Word... but we must persevere if we are to witness to our town, to our region, and to the ends of the earth!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10.24.23 - Thessalonians 5:14

Now we ^[a]exhort you, brethren, warn those who are ^[b]unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. I recently have been addressing the theme of "What Would Jesus Do" (WWJD). I want to continue that theme as we consider today's scripture. When Jesus encountered someone who was unruly, he spoke to them not about them. When Jesus encountered someone who needed encouragement, He prayed not only for them but with them. When Jesus encountered someone who was struggling, He not only offered them advice but also assistance. When Jesus faced offensive people, He always was ready to forgive because His love for them was greater than any offense they had given. In every situation Jesus was in He always pointed people to Himself. As you head out into the world today and encounter people who are being difficult, or who are hurting, or struggling I hope you find yourself thinking about the thoughts I have presented, and as you do I pray that WWJD is what comes to mind.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 10.25.23 - Mark 2:22

Are you afraid of change and new things? Afraid you may be passed by for the latest, "new and improved" model? This is normal. As we age, we mature and outgrow. Aging out of preschool (kindergarten is scary), elementary school (high school is scary), high school (real life is scary). Clothing, relationships, employment, houses... all things we outgrow and mature past. What do you do when this happens? Do you stop and look back and yearn for things past or do you look ahead at the exciting new opportunities? Are you frozen in place and time or are you moving forward, taking steps to continue growing and maturing? Memories and past experiences are great. They are important and formative. But new experiences are necessary for people to take next steps and grow. The same can be said for churches. We must move forward and change. Not just for change sake, but to keep growing. Swiss theologian Hans King states: "A church which pitches its tents without constantly looking out for new horizons, which does not continually strike camp, is being untrue to its calling. . . . [We must] play down our longing for certainty, accept what is risky, and live by improvisation and experiment."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 10.26.23 - Isaiah 43:18-19

As we read these verses, God exclaims that He is the only true God. It is He who can do whatever He wishes. He makes a way in the sea and a path in the waters. Jeremiah spoke that God was a potter, creating whatever He chose out of what was not even available.

He is a miracle worker and loves to perform miracles for His children. The old way of working for our salvation is over. Our God has provided a way for us to inherit the whole earth. Our God is God and is making all things new. Our salvation is only the beginning, as our bodies and homes and work will also be new. They say, 'seeing is believing.' God asks in verse 19, Do you see it? Keep your eyes open.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY- 10.27.23 - Lamentations 3:22-23

Sorrow and joy. Two opposite emotions we all feel, but we so often dwell on the sorrowful aspects of life and sink into emotional agony. Lamentations 3:19-23 begins with that depth of anguish, but ends in rejoicing in the hope that we have in the Lord. God surrounds us with His love and reminds us over and over in Scripture that He is faithful and compassionate, and that joy will be triumphant. Even in nature God plants reminders of His enduring love. We see the sun rise each day, the rainbow after the storm, the renewal of life in the spring after the cold of winter. When we face trials whether in relationships, employment, finances, health, or spiritual doubt, we need to look at God's reminders and refresh ourselves in His Word. Psalm 30:5b ..."weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** FALL QUARTER
LOCATION: B11 with Bob Lehman
Explore the Bible - *Mark's Gospel*
LOCATION: B8-10 with David Hamilton
Bible Studies for Life (Begins Oct. 22nd)
LOCATION: B1-2 with Chris Domenico & Joel Day
Following Jesus in a Digital Age (Begins Oct. 15th)

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** Dive Deep with Doug
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUP

Women's TUESDAY EVENING STUDY

God of Deliverance - Study in Exodus 9/5 - 11/28
in B8-10- with Denise Whitfield & Elizabeth Williams.

Men's TUESDAY EVENING STUDY

Kingdom Man - understand your position under God as well
as your position over what God has given to you.
9/5 - 10/24 in B1-2 with Mike Williams.

Women's THURSDAY MORNING STUDY

Abide -Study of the letters of 1,2,& 3 John - abide in the
truth. 9/7 - 11/30 at 9am in B 8-10.

Women's THURSDAY EVENING STUDY

Desperate for Hope - find hope in your pain. Meeting at
Kulp Church in Catawissa at 6:30 pm began 9/7.

Wednesday EVENING SMALL GROUP

Carry the Flame - Learn to obey the Spirit's direction and live
out the gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.
Begins October 18th at 6:30pm in B8-10 with Barry Wills.

Galatians 5:22-23 **The Fruit of Patience**

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ... patience"

What Is Patience?

The word for "patience" is the Greek term *makrathumia*. It's a compound word. It comes from *makros* which means "long" and *thumos* which means "temper." It has the idea of being slow to anger or as the King James Version often translates the word— "longsuffering."


Why Are We Such Impatient People?

- N _____
- C _____
- T _____

How Do We Develop Patience?

- ❖ O _____ your priorities
(Matthew 6:33)
- ❖ O _____ yourself to slow down
(Psalm 46:10)
- ❖ O _____ the little frustrations of life
(1 Peter 4:8)
- ❖ O _____ how patient God is with you
(Psalm 103:8-10)

"Patience is a calm endurance based on the certain knowledge that God is in control."

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



October 23rd - October 27th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (*E2*) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "The Fruit of Patience" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 10.29, "New Wineskins" with Ken Lewis.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23